

On December 8, 2009, House and Senate appropriators approved a conference report that combines six of the 12 fiscal 2010 spending measures.

As such, the House is on track this week to take up an omnibus spending measure, which includes \$446.8 billion in discretionary funding. It combines the Commerce-Justice-Science (HR 2847), Financial Services (HR 3170), **Labor-HHS-Education (HR 3293)**, Military Construction-VA (HR 3082), State-Foreign Operations (HR 3081) and Transportation-HUD (HR 3288) spending bills. If the omnibus succeeds, the only fiscal 2010 spending bill remaining for Congress to clear will be the Defense bill (HR 3326). This will allow the Defense bill to serve as a vehicle for other legislation congressional leaders want to get done before the end of the year.

Notably, the omnibus strongly reflects certain priorities of the Obama administration and congressional Democrats. Total discretionary funds are \$67.9 billion in the Transportation-HUD section, a \$13.4 billion increase over regular fiscal 2009 funding; **\$163.5 billion in the Labor-HHS section, an \$8.5 billion increase**; and \$24 billion in the Financial Services section, a \$1.63 billion increase. **More specifically, the Labor-HHS- Education section includes \$746 million for the Community Services Block Grant.**

Despite current movement on the omnibus measure, another short-term stopgap funding resolution (CR) may be required to clear fiscal 2010 appropriations and give the Obama administration time to review the huge omnibus. Democrats are working against a December 18th deadline, when the current stopgap continuing resolution that is temporarily funding much of the government runs out.

*(Source: Congressional Quarterly)*